Message Text

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P R 111319Z JUL 75 FM AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1947 TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1947 INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO USUN NEW YORK UNN US MISSION GENEVA UNN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, JA

SUBJECT: RESETTLEMENT OF SELF-EVACUATED INDOCHINA REFUGEES: THE TAISEI MARU 25

REF: STATE 133652

- 1. 25 VIETNAMESE REFUGEES FOUND ADRIFT IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA WERE RESCUED AND BROUGHT TO JAPAN BY JAPANESE REFRIGERATOR SHIP TAISEI MARU. THE GOJ ADMITTED THEM JULY 1 FOR AN INITIAL 15 DAY PERIOD BUT HAS MADE IT CLEAR THAT THEY ARE WELCOME NEITHER AS IMMIGRANTS NOR REFUGEES. ALL 25 WHO ARRIVED DESTITUTE ARE NOW HOUSED AT SEVERAL CATHOLIC CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS IN OSAKA. 18 HAVE APPLIED FOR AND HAVE BEEN GRANTED VISAS TO FRANCE. REMAINING SEVEN HAVE EXPRESSED DESIRE TO ENTER U.S. AS REFUGEES.
- 2. UNCHR CORRESPONDENT IN JAPAN, PROFESSOR Y. SAITO VISITED CONSULATE JULY 10 TO PRESENT DOCUMENTATION FOR THE GROUP WHO COMPRISE FIVE SINGLE MEN AND A MOTHER-SON PAIR. THEY RANGE IN AGE FROM 18-48. IN INTERVIEWS IT WAS DETERMINED THAT NONE HAVE SPECIAL SKILLS OR CONNECTIONS WITH ANYONE IN THE UNITED STATES. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THEY DO NOT IN ANY WAY FIT CATEGORIES REFTEL AS COMING UNDER

GENERAL PAROLE AUTHORITY. SAITO WAS SO INFORMED. HE UNDERSTOOD BUT ASKED SPECIAL CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN THE CASES IN VIEW OF THE LIMITED PERMISSION TO STAY AUTHORIZED BY THE GOJ. HE COMMITTED THE UNHOR TO PAYMENT OF TRAVEL COSTS TO THE UNITED STATES IF ADMISSION COULD BE GRANTED. HE STATED SIMILAR REPRESENTATIONS WERE BEING MADE ON BEHALF OF THE GROUP BY UNHOR IN NEW YORK AND GENEVA.

- 3. ON JULY 11 THE HEAD OF THE LOCAL CATHOLIC AGENCY WHICH IS CARING FOR THE GROUP CALLED TO SEEK ASSISTANCE FOR THE GROUP. WHEN INFORMED OF PRESENT POLICY CONCERNING SELF-EVACUATED REFUGES HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT GROUP SEEMED INELIGIBLE BUT OFFERED TO SEEK IMMEDIATE HELP OF INTERNATIONAL CATHOLIC RELIEF AGENCY CARITAS IN ARRANGING FOR SPONSORSHIP FOR ALL SEVEN BY CATHOLIC ORGANIZATIONS IN THE U. S.
- 4. IN VIEW OF TIME PRESSURE BROUGHT BY OFFICIAL JAPANESE ATTITUDE AN THE HUMANITARIAN NATURE OF THESE CASES DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO CONSIDER EXTENSION OF GENERAL PAROLE AUTHORITY TO EMBRACE THEM. VISAS FALCON MESSAGE SENT SEPTEL. REQUEST GUIDANCE. BRUNS

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Message Attributes

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To: STATE WASHDC

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